

TWO VARIETAL TRANSFERS IN CARYA (HICKORY)

ELBERT L. LITTLE, JR.

Two new combinations of varietal rank in the genus Carya Nutt. (hickory), family Juglandaceae, are made here. The reduction of Carya leiodermis Sarg., swamp hickory, to synonymy is confirmed also.

At the turn of the century and during the first quarter of the twentieth century, two specialists were very active independently in naming novelties of trees in eastern United States. Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927), director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, had just completed his monumental, beautifully illustrated 14-volume "Silva of North America" (1890-1902). This was condensed as his "Manual of the Trees of North America (Exclusive of Mexico)" (1905; Ed. 2, 1922; Ed. 2, corr., 1926).

William Willard Ashe (1872-1932), forester with the United States Forest Service and earlier with the North Carolina Geological Survey, wrote about 60 articles in systematic botany and dendrology, mostly on woody plants of the Southeast. "An indefatigable observer, collector, and annotator of plants," he published 510 new botanical names under 35 genera, according to a biographical note by William A. Dayton (William Willard Ashe, pioneer in southern forestry. Jour. Forestry 44: 213-214, portr. 1946).

Most taxa proposed by the two men in that period have been rejected by later workers and reduced to synonymy. In the genus Crataegus L. (hawthorn), Sargent named about 700 species and Ashe nearly one-fourth as many, about 165. The result was taxonomic chaos. Finally, Gleason and Cronquist (Man. Vasc. Pl. NE. U. S. 389-393. 1963) in a "drastic condensation" accepted only 21 species in the Northeast.

The independent efforts of Sargent and Ashe in the genus Tilia L. (basswood or linden) came to naught after producing confusion for nearly one-half century. Besides varieties, Sargent published 10 binomials in Tilia, and Ashe, 8. In his recent conservative monograph, George Neville Jones (Taxonomy of American species of linden (Tilia). Ill. Biol. Monogr. 39, 156 p., illus. 1968) accepted only 3 species in this genus for the United States, the same 3 species in Sargent's "Silva of North America" (1: 49-58, illus. 1890).